CONPLICTING LAWS THE BASIS OF ALL THE CON SPIRACIES OF THE INFORMERS AGAINST IM-PORTERS -- THE PROCESS OF VICTIMIZING A MERCHANT-THE TREASURY AGENTS RESPONSIBLE

FOR THE CONFUSION OF THE LAWS. The question has been often asked, why do the importers who are charged by Treasury agents with violations of the revenue laws pay large sums of money by way of compromise when they claim that they are not justly chargeable with any violation of law or other impropriety in their dealings with the Custom-house! A brief history of the legislation upon one branch of the Revenue laws will give a satisfactory answer to this inquiry.

The basis and foundation of the charges against Importers in all the recent cases has been the claim, on the part of the revenue agents, that the invoice of the goods presented for entry did not correctly state their dutiable value, but understated it, whereby a less amount of duties was paid than should have been paid by law; and the first step in the conspiracies against these importers has been to procure evidence of such undervaluation. It is certainly a duty of the Government, either by law or regulation, to point out plainly to the merchant the rule by which his goods should be invoiced, but the law on that subject at the present time is in such a state of confusion and complication that it is impossible for an honest importer to present an invoice which he is sure will show the correct dutiable value of his goods. It is this confusion which has placed the importers of this city practically at the mercy of moiety hunters and

Until within a recent period, the law was plain and merchants had no difficulty. Previous to the year 1842, the importer who involced his goods at their actual cost to him in the foreign market, addieg to such cost the actual expenses between the time of purchase and placing the goods on shipboard, was certain that he had complied with the law and that his invoice would pass the Custom-house. Under the law as it then stood, no question arose upon an honest invoice. The law simply required that the invoice should state, when goods purchased, the actual cost on shipl and in cases of goods procured otherwise than by purchase, their actual value on shipboard. first departure from this plain simple rule was in 1842. Py the act passed on the 30th of August in that year the rule was changed, and instead of accepting the actual cost as the dutiable value, the Collector was required to have the goods appraised "at the actual market value or wholesale price thereof at the time when purchased" (not at the places where purchased, but) "in the principal markets of the country from which the same were imported," any invoice to the contrary notwithstanding. This law authorized the appraisers and revenue agents to disregard and throw aside the invoice of the importer, and to exercise their own judgment as to the actual value or wholesale price these goods in the principal markets of the untry. It was the beginning of difficulty. beginning of difficulty. It made an increase in the number of appraisers neces eary, and it largely increased their duties and powers. But this law did not make their decisions upon dutiable value final. It still gave the importer the right of appeal to the Secretary of the Treasury, and in some cases the right to recover back duties if he thought they were assessed too high. But it placed the merchant completely, in one respect, within the appraising power. The merchant was still bound to invoice his goods at cost, with the charges added, and if the appraisers advanced his invoice more than ten per cent, he was subjected to the payment of fifty per cent additional duties

CONFUSION WORSE CONFOUNDED." To meet this defect, on the 30th of July, 1846, Congress authorized the importer " to make such addition in the entry to the cost or value given in the invoice as in his pinion may raise the same to the true market value in the principal markets," etc. In order to save his goods from forfeiture and himself from the payment of additional duties, the importer frequently did avail himself of this law, and paid duties upon the amount to which be had himself raised his own invoice in order to insure the passage of his goods through the Custom house.

On the 3d of March, 1851, an act was passed which still further extended the discretion and powers of the appraisers, and largely increased the difficulties of the goods at the time of purchase or procurement was the cuttable value. By the amendment of 1851 all this was actual market value and wholesale price at the period of exportation to the United States, in the principal markets of the country from which the same shall have been imported," to be ascertained by the appraisers, with the addition of all costs and charges, except in-Under this act it was no longer the importer to invoice his goods either at cost or market value at the time of purchase, for this might be below or above the value the period of exportation. Whether such difference in price existed, whether the price was higher or lower at one time than the other, and how much higher or lower, were questions to be decided by the appraisers. and this act made their decision conclusive, the right of appeal to the Secretary being taken away. THE RULE OF APPRAISEMENT AGAIN CHANGED.

By the act of the 30th of June, 1864, the rule for fixing duttable value was again changed. That act provided that" the actual value of such goods on shipboard at the last place of shipment to the United States shall be deemed the dutiable value." This value was to be ascertained, however, by adding to the value of the goods at the place of growth, production, or manufacture, all the charges and expenses intervening between that place and the ship, this value to be as certained by the appraisers, whose decision was in like oner conclusive. After this act was passed neither the cost of the goods, the market value at the place where purchased or at the period of exportation, any longer afforded a safe rule for invoicing, but the importer was bound at his peril to invoice these goods at their value on shipboard. This act furnished the law of the case to the importer for about a year.

On the 33 of March, 1865, the law was again changed. and dutiable value was declared to be "the actual mar ket value or wholesale price thereof, at the period of exportation to the United States, in the principal markets of the country from which the same shall have been imported into the United States," and the act of 1864 was repealed. This act substantially restored the law of 1851, except that it repealed all acts requiring duties to be assessed upon charger, such as cost of trans-

On the 28th of July, 1866, the law was again changed and dutiable value was declared to be "the cost or th actual wholesale price or general market value at the time of exportation, in the principal markets of the country from whence the same shall have been in ported into the United States, with the addition of the cost of transportation, shipment and transhipment, with all the expenses included, from the place of growth, production, or manufacture, whether by land or water, to the vessel in which shipment is made to the United States." The act provided for various other additions, such as boxing, commissions (which in no case were to be less than 2½ per cent), brokerage, export duties, and all other actual or usual charges for putting up and preparing for transportation or shipment. This act is supposed to be the law under which dutiable value is now ascertained at the Custom-house

THE GOVERNMENT'S OBSTACLES TO IMPORTERS. It will thus be seen that each one of these separate statutes furnishes a different rule for the ascertainment of dutiable value. The importer is bound in every case to present a correct invoice, under heavy penalties. His goods may pass the Custom-house, the duties be paid, and the goods consumed, and if at any time within five years afterward it shall be proven that his invoice has been incorrect in a single item, he is subject to proscen-tion, fine, and imprisonment. If his invoice is advanced more than ten per cent by the appraisers in respect to

General Appraiser, where the same process is substan tially repeated. Under the present laws a fair trial of the disputed question of dutiable value in the Custom house is impracticable, and is rarely, if ever, had.

AN ILLUSTRATION.

Take a case of the practical application of these different rules of dutiable value. An importer has been a long time in business. He intends to keep himself well informed in relation to the Revenue laws, and in good faith to observe all their requirements. He begins invoicing his goods at their actual cost to himself. He next conforms to the law and attempts to invoice them at their actual market value at the time and place of purchase. The next year he involces them at their market value in the principal markets at the period of purchase. The next he is required to invoice them at their market value at the period of exportation. The next at their actual value on shipboard, and floally, at their market value in the principal markets, at the period of exportation, with a long list of charges added. Years after the goods have been list of charges added. onsumed and the duties paid, the charge is made against him that in some of these involces, under some of the laws, there are items which are not correctly invoiced under the law as it existed at the time. In other words, he is called upon to justify and prove the correctness of every item of importation in a large business. It must be apparent that with these frequent changes of the law and different rules, it is utterly impossible for any general importer, however honest, to be sure that in every case he has done precisely what the

law required, and no more and no less. THE PROCESS OF VICTIMIZING. Take the process by which the merchant is victimized. His first notice usually is that his goods have been advanced by the appraiser. He at once makes inquiry for the reason. He is informed that the advance does not imply any wrong or intentional fraud on his part; it is made because the appraiser thinks the goods are invoiced too low. Pursuing his inquiries, he finds that this decision is conclusive, unless appealed from to the General Appraiser, and that an appeal will give him no fair trial. He asks what evidence the advance has been made, and is informed that it is against the regulations of the department to communicate such evidence. On the whole, he finds that it is much less trouble and cost to him to pay the increased duty, than it will be to avoid its payment, and he acquiesces. In the next case his invoice is advanced more than 10 per cent, and this involves the payment of 50 per cent additional duties. He acquiesces in this, knowing that it is doubtful whether he can escape from payment, and that, at any rate, it will cost him more to do so than the amount of additional duties. While he supposes that he mere question of additional duties is involved, the Treasury agents know that the acquiescing merchant is laying a broad and strong foundation for a prosecution. Their next step is to seize his books and papers. After these are examined he is informed that the Treasury agents have a strong case against him.
The gevidence, to be sure, does not involve him personally, but his agents or junior partners, or somebody has, from time to time, invoiced his goods too low, and in many of his invoices there are items, whichif discovered at the time, would have forfeited the en, tire invoice. He is never informed as to the specific items, which are claimed to be wrong, nor of the evidence upon which the claim is made. If at this stage of the case he consuits counsel, and the most thorough professional examination of the case an t the law is made which the nature of the case admits of, he is off, for no counsel can certainly determine whether in this large mass of business with the Custom-house there may not be some unintentional error. By paying, as he has, advanced duties, he has made a prima fucic case against himself upon the record. He has the whole power of the Government, its detectives, its revenue agents, its officers interested in moleties, against him. They have possession of all the evidence, have a knowledge of all the facts, and he has not. Under such circumstances, to settle, to comprom-

of every business man. THE TREASURY AGENTS GUILTY. The worst feature of the whole case is the fact that these changes of the law, by which so much uncertainty has been introduced, has been brought about by the treasury agents themselves. The reason of almost every one of the changes will be found in some decision of the courts of the United States. Whenever and wherever these courts have made a decision which limits the discretion of the revenue officer, or secures to the mporter any right under the law, that decision has been evaded or mullified by an act of the succeeding Congress. Congress; the agents are always there, with reasons and arguments for the charges they desire. It is this uncertainty and complication which has enabled Treasury agents successfully to prosecute their conspiracies against merchants. It is this uncertainty which has left the merchants powerless in their hands.

ise upon the best possible terms, is the natural impulse

There is another chapter of the Revenue law of a similar character. It is that portion of its history which describes the influences by which and the manner in which the laws were passed authorizing the seizure of books and papers, and imposing severe penalties against importers. That chapter may be the subject of future

> A QUAKER VICTIM. NMENT BLACKMAIL

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: If ever there was an upright man in commercial life, the well-known member of the Society of Friends, Abraam Bell, who died some years ago, was one. He was above all breath of calumny, and yet he was obliged to pay \$30,000 to the melety ring when he did not owe one cent. How it was done, and the reason why he yielded to the demand, furnish an answer to those who are surprised that a strictly honest merchant can be put in a position that makes him appear as "com-pounding a felony." One morning, a few years ago, the Custom-house officers cutered the office of Abraam Bell & Co. and seized all their books on the ground that a cargo of hides just then arrived from Buenos Avres was undervalued in the invoice. The Consul's certificate of proper valuation was produced, but the officers re fused to take any cognizance of it. The consignment was to A. Bell & Co. for one of their dealers. Some days were spent in producing evidence of the correctness of the invoice without effect. In the mean time the cargo was losing in market value by the fall of prices and the depreciation of condition. The owner saw that he was likely to lose largely by delay, and authorized Mr. Bell to settle with the officers. He drew a check for \$30,000, and the books were released. Bell was not personally interested, yet he appeared as the responsible party in the transaction. There was no fraud, but the owners were losing \$5,000 a day by the causes stated, and if they had not settled at \$30,000 would have lost two or three times that much. PENN. New-York, March 17, 1874.

H. B. CLAPLIN'S VIEWS OF THE MOIETY SYSTEM.

To the Editor of The Tribune. SIR: I am a Republican of the blackest stripe, a firm believer in President Grant's integrity and ability, but if the Administration indorses "the molety system" as now practiced please "count me out." I am more than surprised to see that H. B. Claffin is with the Custom-house. His statement made to a reporter of The Bulletin is that he and Mr. Stewart have no trouble with the laws. Does Mr. Claffin mean to say that his importing clerkswill swear; that every invoice they import is correct ! He cannot! I say it is impossible for Mr. Claffin or any merchant doing the business that he or A. T. Stewart, Phelps, Dodge & Co., or Woodruff & Robinson are doing to know that every invoice is correct. As these laws now are, if there is a mistake of \$500 or \$100 in an invoice of say \$30,000, imported by Mr. Claffin, Mr. Jayne can "strike" him for the whole invoice. But Mr. Claffin says (which looks like a little voice. But Mr. Claffin says (which looks like a little "sop" thrown at Mr. Dodge), that he does not believe "the head" of any house would try to defraud the Government, but that many juniors might be cuilty of it, because their interest is soni. That is a healthy seniment for Mr. Claffin to utter. The inference is that he and Mr. Stewart do not have any trouble because they give their juniors a larger interest than those houses which have been so severely mulcited. I wonder Mr. Claffin does not have over his door, "We give our juniors a larger interest so that the Government shall not be swindled." Boosh! Mr. Claffin, I am sure, was a junior once himself. Would be have cheated then more than now! I rejoice that his sentiment of the community is so strong against the laws as they now are, and hope that we shall soon have others which may not tempt joilors any more than "the head" of the house.

New-Fork, March 17, 1874.

A REFORMER.

on the question of intention, an appeal cannot be taken unless the two judges sit, and there is a division of opinion; and there is no way for the defendant t compel two judges to sit. When a man is indicted he knows that he is at the mercy of his prosecutors.

\*\*Rec Fork\*, March 17, 1874.

LIBERAL CHURCHMANSHIP.

LECTURE BY THE REV. DR. G. B. PORTEUS-AN INTER-RUPTION.

The Rev. Dr. G. B. Porteus lectured last evening at the Hail of the Young Men's Christian Asso-ciation, in Brooklyn, upon the three parties in the Church of England, the Broad, the High, and the Low Church. He gave the different views of these parties and then in very strong language, and with evident feeling, spoke of the Ritualistic branch as one which should be considered un-Protestant and entirely wrong He also touched upon the condition of the Church in this country and his own experience. The audience, though not very large, seemed to be in accord with the speaker, though considerable disturbance was at one time caused by one person who loudly denounced the remarks as so many slanders upon the Church. Dr. Porteous began his lecture with the statement that

in order to understand the subject of the evening-the

three parties of the Church of England-religious his

tory must be traced from the time of the Reformation.

Before that time, he said, the earth had fallen into a

sort of stupor, from which it was awakened by the

Reformation. But as all negative movements are followed by reactions, so was this followed by another period of deadness. Wesley became convinced; that he was destined to vitable the general relig-ious tone of England. In his reaction he taught that religion consisted mainly of feeling, and from this grew out the three parties in the English Church. At Oxford there was a feeling that mere sensibility was not by any means a test of Christian change. At the same time with this grew the feel ing that faith and reason should be joined, and that to dissever them would be as mischlevous to the church as it was vicious to the individual. The view was advo cated that the Church should have no dogmas or creeds to exclude any kind of Christian thought. It was fortunate that they had a broad platform that would suit everybody. The High Church declared that they did not depend party upon feeling, and certainly did not recognize reason; they wanted their doctrines declared for them, and said there could be only one Church for them, and that Church in tradition. In England the High Church is a church of young women. Protestantism is a religiou for thinkers. The Protestant Episcopal Church in this country, he thought, was simply a phenomenon, as it had nothing to back it as in England, and he feared it would never take root. The Americans were not lovers of institutions, and, therefore, could have no taste for

would never take root. The Americans were not lovers of institutional church.

He was speaking in this strain of the apostolic succession and rituals, when some one in the audience loudly called out: "Order, order; it is a scandal upon the Church." Commotion ensued; men were calling to have the man ejected, and amid his retorts, the speaker's endeavor to proceed, and suggestions from nearly every one, the man was expelled from the hall.

When quiet was restored. Dr. Porteous proceeded, saving that it was now time, in speaking of the influences which were tending to leaven the Church, when etiquetie should be laid aside. The Church here, he said, had lately taken a phase which had not only been unpopular, but at variance with episcopacy. In Englandithey had haw whichenforced ecclesiastical order. The people here should not allow their bishops to go without some kind of coercive criticism. This hat phase was vicous as it was unconstitutional, and hollow as it was false. He said he did not speak of himself; in what he had done he had only hart the dignity of certain individuals who would keep him confined with circles of elegant respect. The High Church here was not Protestant, and, so far from Bishop Potter's protesting against Ritualism, by his very selence he encouraged it. If ms transaction, the speaker said, had been having lighted candles, processional hymns, nice colored vestments, and carsaig his brother Presbyterians, the offense would have been extremely pardomable. He advised Episcopalians, though their religion had nominally succeeded, to purge it of the tendencies which were eating out its life. So long as they believed in the Apostone Succession, they would be giving encouragement to a hideous sham. He reminded those of other denominations that the Broad Church party favored hiberal principals, and concluded by saying that that party was entitled to the respect and reverence of favored liberal principals, and concluded by saying that that party was cutilled to the respect and reverence of

THE CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL.

NAMES OF DELEGATES ALREADY CHOSEN. The following is a list of delegates so far chosen by churches summoned to the Congregational Council in Brooklyn on March 24:

Kgw York, —Tabersaele Clurch, City of New York—Pastor, Rev. William M. Teylor, D. D.; Delegate, Wm. Henry Smith; Alternate, Charles Whittemore, First Congregational Church, Binghambon—Pirst Congregational Church, Homer—Pastor, Rev. vin. J. Bublisson. First Congregational Church, Fairport—Pastor, Rev. J. Butler; Delegate, John R. Howard.

Binger, S. Lie, A. S. L , John E. Howard.

Hourty-Elm-place Congregations Church-Pastor, Rev. Issac is, Henry H. Van Dries, iste Assistant Treasurer, Sub-Treasure, Fork, State-st. Congregational Church-Pastor, Rev. Mr. Gerrer Belgagt, John Dongal, New-England Church, E. D.—Pastor, J. H. Lackwood; Delegate, Rev. S. S. Jocelyn; Alternate, Wm. Karmon.

He. Sepmon.

Washington, D. C.—First Congregational Church—Pastor, Rev. J. E. Bankin, D. D., Bengate, Prof. A. L. Barber.

New-Jansen.—First Congregational Church, Jersey City—Pastor, Rev. G. Boxingham Willow; Delegate, Jonathan Diron; Alternate, Dearcon Winslow Ames. First Congregational Church, Newark—Pastor, Rev. We. Brown; Delegate, Rev. Generge Brown.

Connection:—Second Congregational Church, Bridgeport.—After carnest discussion in which the warmost good will toward Plrmonth Church and its pastor, as well as toward the churches staling the Connection as expressed, the church proceeded to elect a delegate. Pastor, Rev. Edward Johnson; Delegate, Dearcon Elizand Saching, First Church, Martford—Pastor, Rev. E. M., Richerdon; Delegate, Hon.

Calva Day, First Congregational Church, New-Haven—Fastoral Delegate.

Church, New-London-Pastor, Rev. O. E. Daggett, Delegare, Hon. H. P. Riven. Fred Congregational Church, New-London-Pastor, Rev. Thomas P. Fredt; Delegate, Wan. C. Crump.
Massa Riverra, School Church, Boston-Pastor, Rev. A. C. Thompson; Delegate, Deacon, A. Rossell Bradford. Falings Carroli, Boston-Pastor, Rev. A. K. Alden, Delegate, Deacon Coone Burcham. Fractor, Rev. R. K. Alden, Delegate, Deacon Coone Burcham. Church, Cambringe-Pastor, Rev. C. Cashbon, D. D. Part Church, Westfeld-Pastor, Rev. C. Cashbon, D. D. Part Church, Westfeld-Pastor, Rev. A. J. Pittsworth, Delegate, E. B. Gillett, First Church, Delegate, Rev. C. Cashbon, D. D. Part Church, Westfeld-Pastor, Rev. A. J. Pittsworth, Delegate, E. B. Gillett, First Church, Pastor, Rev. N. S. Leavitt; Delegate, Hon. S. T. Spankhing, First Church, Pittsfeld-Pastor, Kev. Edward, O. Bartlett, Delegate, Hon. Theodore Fomewor, High-st. Charch, Lowell-Pastor, Rev. Owen Street, Delegate, Hon. Nathan Crosby, Edwards Congregational Church, Northampton-Pastor, Rev. Govide Rall, D. D. Delegate, Deacon Wu. H. Sted kerl, Alternate, Prof. Josiah Chris. Rev. S. G. Bockingham, of Sprintedisk, writers "Our church will not be represented in the Council." Audover Smilmary Church-Pastor, Rev. Prof. John L. Taylor, D. D. Delegate, Rev. Prof. Eghert C. Smyth. D. D. D.

Marys — First Congregational Church, Branswick — Pastor, Rev. R., Brington, Beliegate, Professor G. S. Sewall. Second Parish Church ortland—Pastor, Rev. John J. Carrathers, D. D.; Belogate, Rev. et al., V. Bulen.

Portinon—Pastor, Rev. John J. Carrathers, D. D.; Beingstag, Rev. James M. Palmer.

\*\*New-Hampshirkt.\*\*—First Church, Fortsmonth—Pastor—Rev. Carlos Martyn; Deigaste, John S. Rend. Scott Church, Concorn—Pastor, Rev. S. L. Blake; Deigaste, Descon G. McQuesten.

\*\*Vernoors.\*\*—First Congregational Church, Montpeller—Pastor, Rev. W. H. Lord, D. D.; Belegate, Hon. S. C. Emere, Second Congregational Church, Scott Joinalen, Church, Scott Joinalen, Church, Scott Joinalen, Church, Scott Joinalen, Church, Rev. As D. Smith, D. D., Hanseer, N. H., Bert, H. M. Derser, D. D., and Kev. S. B. Treat Beston Mass; Rev. John Pike, D. D., Rowley, Mass.; Rev. T. D. Wookee, D. D., and Rev. Samuel Harris, D. D., New-Haven, Conn.; Rev. Horace Bischnell, D. D., and Rev. R. Q. Vernlayer, D. D., Bartford, Conn.; Rev. Ray Painer, D. D., Rev. D. B. Coo, D. D., and Rev. E. W. Gilman, New-Yerk, Rev. G. P. Mageon, D. D., Gregoli, L. D., Gregoli, P. D., Gregoli, P. D., Gregoli, P. D., Gregoli, P. D., D., Gregoli, P. D., Berlott, P. G., S. Rey, W. H., Merriman, D. D., Rippin, W.S.

A COMMUNISTIC ANNIVERSARY. The Societé des Refugeés de la Commune

selebrated the third anniversary of what they styled The Revolution of the Eighteenth of March," last evening, in the Germania Assembly Rooms in the Bowery. The Honorary Presidents of this Society are Louis Michel, now in New-Caledonia, and M. Rospael, who ism France. M. Sauva is the acting President, and presided last evening. The organization claims a membership of 400, but there were only 300 present at the celebration, including representatives from eight sections of Internationalists from the Groupe Revolutionnaire, and the Free-Thinker's Union. At about nine o'clock the assembly took seats at three long tables in the dining-hall, and shared a frugal collation. The head of the hall was vivid with the red color of the Commune. Upon a great piece of searlet cloth was the name of the society; a large red ensign was inscribed with the appeal in German "Workingmen of all lands-Unite!" A black banner bore the words "Groupe Revolutionnaire Socialiste International" in red letters. Three portraits were hung upon the wall ; those of Ferré and Rossel, shot at Satory, were draped in black; that of Blanqui was heavy with searlet drapery. A large ensign on the side wall dis played the Liberty cap upon a column of spears, before because their interest is small. That is a healthy sentimore than fee per cent by the appraisers in respect to
a single item, he is subjected to the payment of the
additional duty of so per cent and his goods to seizure and
confiscation. No merchant can regard himself as insured against any transaction with the Custom-house
that is prosecution is larred against him by the statute
of limitations.

It would seem, under such a state of facts, that it was
the duty of the Government to furnish to the importer
a fair and just method of ascertaining the dutiable
values of soods be proposes to enter. His invoice, at
least, should be taken as primar face; correct, and if the
values stated by him are proposed to be increased by
the appraisers, it should be upon some legal evidence.
Instead of having a fair trial of that question, his goods
are sent to the appraisers's office, and there examined by
the examiner of the class to which they belong. He
may, if he chooses to do so, advance them without evidence he exercises his judgment, and the invoice is
referred to the proposed to select an advance, and posting regions to the community is
the appraisers, it should be taken as primar face; of the class to
the examiner of the class to which they belong. He
may, if he chooses to do so, advance them without evidence he exercises his judgment, and the invoice is
referred to the control of the community is
that a merchants are at the mercy of these public maranders,
and post the closer of the class to
the deficiency of the class to which they belong.

The importeris not permitted to know upon what evidence he exercises his judgment, and the invoice is
refuncted by him to the Collector with such a disclosuration of the Government appraisation of the Government as proposed to the
proposed to make, and the invoice is
refuncted by him to the Collector with such addition as
returned by him to the Collector with such addition as
present to the appraisers of make the control of the community is
and postile rotion for the forma which a balance hung, while behind were crossed cannon

HOME NEWS.

HERMOMETER, YESTERDAY, AT HUDNUTS, IN BROADWAY. 9 a. m.-48' Noon-55' 3 p. m.-570 Melnight-48'

PROMINENT ARRIVALS.

Brectoort House—The Hon. John V. L. Pruyn of Albany, and Wayne Mus Veagh of Harrisburg... New York Hotel-Gen. Nelso H. Davis, U. S. A. ... Glenkom Hotel-Major M. A. Rezo., U. S. A. ... St. Nicholas Hotel-Gen. E. W. Leavenworth of Stracuse U. S. A. ... St. Nicholas Hotel-Gen. E. W. Leavenworth of Stracuse of Cincinnati. ... Westswinster Hotel-B. M. Field, manager of the Boston Museum. Fitth Accense Hotel-The Hon. H. H. Starkwenther, M. C. of Connecticut; Gen. John Hammond of Crown Point, N. Y., and Dr. E. Zilriege of Elmira. ... Winstor Hotel-Gen. John Marshall Brown of Portland, Me. ... Astor House—Gen. W. L. Burt, Postmaster of Boston. ... St. James Hotel-The Rev. James Freenan Clarke of Hoston. PROMINENT ARRIVALS

NEW-YORK CITY The Coast Wrecking Company have begun

work on the schooner Benjamin Reed which went ashore near the West Bank a week ago. The arrival of 964 bales of cotton was reported yesterday. Prices are nearly 2 cents a pound lower than at this time last year.

The hall at Third-ave, and One-hundred-andthirty-second-st. has been assigned for the Civil Court in

the IXth Judicial District. Justice Flanagan will hold court in it this morning for the first time. The delegates of the New-York Chamber of Commerce, who attended the funeral of the late Charles Summer, in Beston-Cyrus W. Fleid, A. A. Low, S. B. Chittenden, and Ellot C. Cowdin-are all natives of New-

Business on the Stock Exchange was dull resterday, without any special feature. A large number of Wall-st, operators were absent at Chester to wit-ness the launch of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company's mammoth steam propeller City of Peking. Eight car-loads started from the Jersey City Station of the Penn-sylvania Railroad.

A portion of the cargo of the French steamer Alexander Levallay reached this city yester ay morning. The Levallay went ashore opposite Southampton, L. I., several weeks ago, and still hes in nearly the same position as at first. She will probably be floated without difficulty or injury when the cargo shall have been entirely removed. The Board of Fire Underwriters of this city

resolved recently to pay rewards for the arrest and con-

riction of incendiaries. In accordance with this resolution they paid yesterday to properly authorized persons \$500 for the conviction of Charles E. Hunter of firing his own house at Gransville, Indiana. The fire occurred on January 13. The culprit was convicted on February 21, and sentenced to four years' imprisonment. The Howard Relief Association presents this record of work for the month ending March 12; At No. 49 Leonard st., meals furnished, 18,660; lodgings, 7,770

At No. 61 Thompson-st., meals furnished, 12,673; lodgings, 2,395. Families relieved, 590; articles of clothing given out, 360. Meals furnished from Dec. 13, 1813, to March 12, 1814, 78,683; lodgings, 23,183; families relieved, 598; articles of clothing given out, 650. Caleb T. Rowe, the treasurer of the fund for

the family of the late Paster Emile F. Cook, has received \$2,148 32. The Rev. Dr. Vincent of the Methodist Epis-\$2,148 32. The Rev. Dr. vincent of the stations Sanday-copal Church, has sent an appeal to the various Sanday-schools of that denomination for further contributions, and by request of the American Evangelical Alliance a special collection will be taken in the churches of the various denominations on next Sanday for this fond.

Coroner Woltman was asked last evening to hold an inquest upon a young woman, age 26, named Maria Felton, who died yesterday at the Grove House, No. 170 Felton, who died yesterday at the Grove House, No. 170
Bleecker-st., under suspicious circumstances. It appears
that she left the residence of her parents, at No. 25
Jane-st., about a week ago, saying that she had procured a position as governess in a family, and went to
the Grove House. She died yesterday, after confessing
to a young woman named Johnson that she had taken
peculiar medicines. Capt. Williams is collecting evidence in regard to the case.

Brief funeral services were held yesterday over the remains of the late Henry Shields, President of the Board of Flour Inspectors and for many years a prominent flour merchant in Broad-st., at his late restlence, No. 108 Second-ave. The remains were then dence, No. 108 Secondardy. In telemona Requiem Mass was channed over them. The Very Rev. Father Quinn, Vicar General, preached and administered absolution, and the Rev. Fathers Everett, Fitzpatrick, King, and Kearney assisted in the services. The casket that held the remains was of rose wood, covered with velvet and richly mounted with silver, and bore on the lie a plate with the inscription: "Henry Shields, died March 14, 1874, acrd 67 veats." 14. 1874, aged 67 years."

The Committee of Fifteen appointed by the Committee of the Produce Exchange to raise money in aid of the suffering poor held a meeting yesterday to make final disposition of the funds in hand. The Commake final disposition of the funds in hand. The Committee have raised in all a little more than \$0,100, of which \$1,862 remained unappropriated yesterday. The proposition to give money to the soup-houses was debated, but met with central opposition. An old member of the Exchange living in Brooklyn with a family of nine children is desittate. The sum of \$250 was "by the Treasurer. It was decided to retain the remaining funds for the relief of special cases which may be brought to the notice of the Committee. Since the last published report \$250 have been appropriated to St. John's Guild. BROOKLYN.

Mrs. Elizabeth Delaney, who was assaulted on Sanday evening with a hatchet by her husband, who afterward committed suicide, is reported to be recov-

George Weeks of the Twentieth Ward has been elected Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Republican General Committee, and Chas. Phillips has been elected Secretary.

Great pressure is being brought to bear upon Mayor Hunter by different politicians, who are urging the appointment of their special favorites for the posi-Worth, who was elected to the Assembly.

Ninety-six jurors have been summoned to attend at the United States Circuit Court in Brooklyn, on March 25, when it is proposed to try Messrs. Sanborn, Vanderwerken, and Hawley. Judge Benedict will pre-side at the trial if no Circuit Judge can be procured.

District-Attorney Rodman intends to try Isane Badeau and the others connected with the taxoffice defalcations, in April. He said yesterday, that he was determined to respond to the wishes of the people, who demand that the rogues shall pay the penalty of their transgressions. He is examining the papers, and thinks that he will be, without doubt, prepared to try the indicted persons in the next term of the Court of

A man apparently about 55 years of age, respectably dressed, and having long gray hair and ful brown whiskers and musiache mixed with gray, was noticed yesterday afternoon staggering along the streets of East New-York. He visited a large number of saloon of East New-York. He visited a large number of saloons, obtaining higher aliaimost every place, and finally he sank to the ground in a helpless state of intoxication. He was arrested by a policeman at about 11:30 s. m., and taken to the East New-York Station-house where he was consigned to a cell. He was too insbriated to give either his name or residence. At about 4:30 p. m. he was discovered suspended from the door of his cell by a scarf which he had twisted around his neck. An inquest will be held at the Coroner's office at noon to-day.

LONG ISLAND.

FLUSHING .- The opposition existing between be Central, the Flushing and North Shore, and the Long Island Railroad is likely to prove beneficial to the residents of Long Island in giving them increased facilities of travel and transportation at reduced rates. The people of this town and of the intermediate stations between here and Hanter's Point have already experienced henefits by the establishment of opposition lines, and the consequent lower rates of fares; and now there is a probability that Summer pleasures seekers may have increased facilities of access to Rockaway and other places of resort on the South Side of the island. The management of the Central and North Shore Roads propose to establish a branch road to Rockaway in competition with the Long Island Rockaway branch to run in the most direct route from this town to Jamaica, and tence over the tracks of the South Side Ralirond to Springfield, Valley Stream, Woodsburgh, Far Rockaway, and the beach. of travel and transportation at reduced rates. The peo

and the beach.

HEMFSTEAD.—It is understood that arrangements have been made for pushing work on the New-York, Bay Ridge and Hempstead Railroad, which has been suspended since the failure of the Shipherds in the management of the South Side Railroad last year. Men are advertised for to complete the grading of the road-bed, Inis road, for which the right of way has already been secured, will be almost an air-line from Bay Ridge to this town, touching New-Utrecht, Flatlands, Flatbush, New-Lots, and Jammica; and it is intended eventually to extend it to Huntington and other towns on the North Side of the island.

Busslau.—The inquest in the case of William Moller.

North Side of the island.

BRESLAU.—The inquest in the case of William Muller, who was shot and instantly killed last Sunday evening by Andrew Killerman in the saloon of Nicholas Heil, was continued yesterlar by Coroner Hamilt. The prisoner, with his counsel and his wife and daughter, occupied scats at the Coroner's table. Dr. George W. Bell of Farmingdale testified to the nature of the wounds.

STATEN ISLAND.

STAPLETON .- At the last meeting of the Trustees of the Seaman's Retreat, the office of Superintendent of the institution, which has been held for several years by Mr. Edgar, was abolished, and hereafter only a steward will be employed, at a small salary. NEW-JERSEY.

JERSEY CITY.-The Legislature in joint session last evening at Trenton elected the following per sons to fill vacancies in various offices in Jersey City Police Commissioners, Thomas Edmondson and Lewis D. Bragham; Free Commissioners, Andreas Martin and John S. Edwards; Boxed of Public Works, Wm. Startings, Wm. W. Lee, and J. Kelsey; Police Justices, S. T. Reese and George Van Horn. The newly elected officials will take their seats on April 1. The appointments displace Commissioner Gertz from the Police Board, Commissioners Dean and Boyd from the Fire Commission, Gullette and Delayeigne from the Board of Pablic Works, and Justice Seymour....The receipts of live stock at the abattor yesterday were 1,127 cattle, 1,138 sheep, and 1,681

NEWARK .- Adam Groel, an ex-chief of the Fire De-

partment, died yesterday morning after a protracted ilineas from spinal affection and softening of the brain.

Ex-Sheriff Gamble is seriously, ill with inflammatory rheumatism. There is very little hope of his recovery.

A well-attended woman's suffrage meeting was held at Library Hall last night. Mrs. Blake, Mrs. Dr. Mix, and Dr. R. T. Halleck of New-York made addresses. Resolutions were adopted asking the Legislature to grant to women equal civil and political privileges with mee, and asking Senator Frelinghuysen to reconsider his position in this matter.

PATERSON.—The Faterson-ave. property owners have relained counsel to contest the payment of the assessment for grading the avenue. Three hundred and thirty-three families were relieved at the hospital, and 266 families at the market, on Tuesday, and nearly the same number yesterday. S. C. Horsford, principal of School No. 2, was presented with one of Rogers's statuettes by some of his pupils on Tuesday night.

HonoKen.—The body of a man, supposed to be a Ger-

Horoken.—The body of a man, supposed to be a Ger-man, about 35 years of age, was received at the office of Coroner Parslow yesterday, where it now remains for identification. It was found on the bank of Pen Horn Creek, and apparently had been in the water for three weeks.

LECTURES AND MEETINGS. H. McMurtrie of Boston will give a free lec-

ture this evening, in Hall No. 24, Cooper Union, on "Boiler Explosions no Mystery." A special meeting of the Society of Tammany, or Columbian Order, was held last evening in Tammany Hall. The following members were initiated: Alderman Edward Gilon, Col. A. B. Caldwell, Delano C. Caivin, David B. Williamson, Stuyvesant F. Morris, James E. Morrison, Francis M. Harris, Sam'l V. Speyer, and Henry Daily, jr.

The following petition was presented yester day to the President of the Produce Exchange, signed by 89 members, and in accordance with a request therein contained a meeting of the Exchange has been called for Friday:

for Friday:

Many members of this Exchange, from their inshilly to hear the proceedings of the meeting held on Tuesday last to consider the proposed amendments to the by-laws, were unable to act with a proper understanding of the questions then audmitted, and we therefore respectfully request a meeting of the members for a reconsideration of the same.

The New-York Methodist Conference closed its annual session yesterday afternoon. The following is a list of the ministers, and their appointments for the ensuing year: The Rev. J. J. Smith, D. D., Evergreenave. Church, Brooklyn; the Rev. A. J. Conklin, Graham-ave. Mission Church; the Rev. Dr. Hanks, Tarrytown, ave. Mission Church; the Rev. Dr. Hanks, Tarrytown, N. Y.; the Rev. A. B. Purdy, Tomphins Cove, L. L.; the Rev. Mr. Leith, Centerville, N. J.; the Rev. J. C. Berry, Manorville, L. L.; the Rev. J. H. Panater, Canarsic, L. L.; the Rev. R. S. Huischart, R. ckville Centre, L. L.; the Rev. L. L. Miller, Centerport, L. I.; the Rev. J. S. Sharp, Canterbury, Conn.; the Rev. E. E. Withey, New-London, Conn.; the Hev. H. Robitson, and the Rev. G. K. Woodward, Paterson, N. J. The Rev. Mr. Woodworth was left without an appointment, at his own request. The next Conference of this Church will meet at Tarrytown, N. Y., in October, 1874.

POLICE NOTES.

An inquest was held yesterday by Coroner Jones filrocklyn in the case of Mrs. Elien L. Bulwell, who was found with or throat cat on Teastay night lying upon her bed. The verdict was at she came to her death by wounds infacted by herself while tempora-

Coroner Jones of Brooklyn held an inquest yester day upon the body of John Hanley, who die; on Monday from overlose of morphise. A verifict was rendered in accordance facts, and Edward Buckley, the apothecary who sold the morph acquitted of all blame in the marker. Yorkville Police Court, yesterday, Henry

At the Yorkville Police Court, yesterday, Henry Hamilton and Charles Foster were arrayzed on the compilant of Thea. B. Tweslife, residing in fasta Forty-schith st., on a charge of obtaining \$10 from him under false pretenses. The accused represented themselves as authorised to collect money for the families of Win. Kosher, who this stayfed was a member of the Fire Department and had been who this stayfed on its duty. It was shown that no such parson as Koeliter had ever been connected with the Fire Department. A subscription list with amounts verying from \$10 to \$500, amounting it all to several humired dollars, was found in the possession of the accused; also, a forged certificate authorizing, them to collect asberr plans signed by the thick fangineer of the Fire Department. The prisoners were committed in default of \$2,000 each. ... Hugh Kerr and James Grass, aged 13 and 14 years, respectively, charged with defaulting old peng valued at \$40, were held for examination. The accused with a strained of \$4,000 to parting the goods. ... Frank Draft of No. 110 Leonardest, charged Edward A. Evans and Emarel Harvey with defaulting this of \$40,001 twas shown an advertisement anonerade in the next papers on March 14 status that a collector with \$400 security was wanted at 16, 804 Second-say, and that complainant spiled, succeed the particular, and paid over \$400 to defendants, who is return gave time a receipt informed by one Withm Attickee. Seeing the same advertisement in the papers of vesteriay, complainant became alarmed and caused the arrests. The prisoners were leid in \$1,000 ball cach.

THE VACANCY IN THE POLICE BOARD. The Mayor said yesterday that there was nothing new to be said about the vacant Police Commissionership. If Commissioner Andrews still wished to withdraw his name he would not press the matter but would of course comply with the request. He thought it unlikely that he would send in thought it unlikely that he would send in a new name to the Board of Alder men to-day. He feit more inclined to take more time for consideration. Still, he might be "seized with an inspiration" and send in a name. Commissioner Andrews, it is understood, has not changed his mind. Meantime, the friends of the candidates whose names have been mentioned is connection with the pesition are exerting themselves again to have their favorite nominated.

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